

Patent Application
Docket No. P14984US

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his report. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1 - 22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 6, 7, 13 and 15 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to the Applicants. Claims 2, 8-11 and 17-22 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 3-5, 12, 14 and 16 remain under examination.

Claim objections

Claim 12 is objected to because of informalities. Those were corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. On line 4, the word 'record' has been replaced with 'records' and on line 5, the word 'in' after the word 'information' has been replaced with 'at'.

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3-5, 12, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ebata et al. (US 6,708,209) herein referred to as Ebata. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 12, 14 and 16. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims.

Claim 1 has been amended into a method claim instead of an apparatus claim. It is the Applicants belief that such an amendment provides a formulation that conforms with MPEP 2106, II, C.

Claim 1 now relates to a method for transferring policy information in an Internet Protocol (IP) network from a network node comprising a table, which comprises a plurality of records. The method comprises the step of, at the network node, listing in each of the plurality of records of the table at least two Policy Enforcement Points (PEP) with a range of IP addresses. The method then comprises a step of, with a specific IP address, in the network node, finding a record from the table corresponding to the IP address within the range of IP addresses of the record. Thereafter, in the network node, the method follows with reading a first one of the at least two PEPs in the record and,

Patent Application
Docket No. P14984US

from the network node, sending policy information to the first PEP. Upon reception at the network node of an indication that the first PEP is not working, the method follows with reading a second one of the at least two PEPs in the record and, from the network node, sending policy information to the second PEP.

Ebata aims at solving the issue of policy distribution in a network having a plurality of interconnected networks each having a policy server. Ebata shows that each network has its own Policy Server (PS) 10100, 20100, 30100 and 40100. The PS of Ebata performs the function of a Policy Decision Point (PDP), as mentioned on column 16, lines 23-28, which specifies the policy to be enforced. In the same passage, Ebata teaches that the various routers perform the function of a policy Enforcement Point (PEP), which receives directions of the PDP and perform control in accordance with the policy. On the following lines of column 16 (lines 28-34), Ebata further mentions that the PS can act both as a PDP and a PEP in which case the PDP is represented by the resource allocation requesting side and the PEP is represented by the resource allocation responding side. The PS, in the context of Ebata, maintains information necessary to ensure that a user is given proper service in each of the interconnected networks in view of the policy defined by the interconnected networks' administrators. The definition made by each of the interconnected network administrator are entered in tables such as the one shown in Figure 6. Ebata, column 5, line 65 to column 6 line 21:

The network administrator generates the inter-organization resource policy table (322a) as shown in FIG. 6.

As shown in the figure, the inter-organization resource policy table (322a) has entries for each outgoing interface of the border router of its organization. In each entry, (a) denotes organization IDs (50101) of other organizations to which the outgoing interfaces connect; (b) denotes policy server addresses of other organizations to which the outgoing interfaces connect; (c) denotes inter-organization link IDs (50103) given to the outgoing interfaces, i.e., given to inter-organization links; (d-1) is IP addresses (50104) of the incoming interfaces of the same border routers that correspond to the outgoing interfaces; (d-2) is IP addresses (50105) of the outgoing interfaces; (e) is IP

Patent Application
Docket No. P14984US

addresses (50106) of the outgoing interfaces of the border routers of other organizations that connect to the outgoing interfaces; (f) denotes upper limit (M bits/sec) of the band of the outgoing interface available for each host that is set by the network administrator for the reservation type resource allocation request; and (g) is an upper limit (M bits/sec) of the band of the outgoing interface available for each host that is set by the network administrator for the immediate type resource allocation request.

As can be appreciated, the table of Figure 6 can list more than one Policy Servers in column (b) that corresponds to the organization IDs listed in column (a). In fact, what Ebata suggests is that, for each ID listed in column (a), there is an associated PS listed in column (b).

As mentioned above, claim 1 is directed to a method in which a network node lists, in each of a plurality of records of a table, at least two Policy Enforcement Points (PEP) with a range of IP addresses. The Applicants agree that the table of Figure 6 in Ebata provides some similarities to the table of claim 1 as the table of Ebata can list more than one Policy Server and that a Policy Server can also be a PEP. However, as far as Ebata could be understood, that is the only common point between the two tables. The table of claim 1 lists more than one PEP for a single range of IP addresses for the purpose, as stated in the further steps of the method, of providing a second choice of PEP if the first selected one is not working. In comparison, Ebata lists the PS in the table of Figure 6 for the purpose of linking a PS with an organization ID. Furthermore, Ebata does not provide any mechanism such as the method of claim 1 to further read a second PEP after reception of an indication that the first selected PEP is not working and to further send Policy Information to the second PEP.

For all the above reasons, it is the Applicants' belief that claim 1 is patentable in view of Ebata. Patentability of claims 3-5 and 7 ultimately depends on claim 1. Therefore, and in view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, 3-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is amended as mentioned above with respect to the claim objection

Patent Application
Docket No. P14984US

Claim 12 now relates to a method for updating a table of data records, wherein each of the data records associates an Internet Protocol (IP) address range with a first Policy Enforcement Point (PEP) and a second PEP. The table of data records resides in a network node. The method comprises steps of receiving, from a PEP, routing information at the network node. Upon reception of the routing information at the network node, the method follows by extracting, from the routing information, the IP addresses assigned to the PEP and comparing the received routing information with information stored in at least one data record. In such a case, the at least one data record has at least one of the PEP and the IP addresses listed therein. Thereafter, if needed, the method follows with updating the at least one data record.

Ebata has already been presented above. In the context of claim 12, Ebata does not provide mechanism of comparison between data already entered in tables and incoming data potentially updating the tables' entries. Thus, it is the Applicants assertion that Ebata, at least, does not teach nor suggest comparing the received routing information with information stored in at least one data record, wherein the at least one data record has at least one of the PEP and the IP addresses being listed therein and if needed, updating the at least one data record.

For all the above reasons, it is the Applicants' belief that claim 12 is patentable in view of Ebata. Patentability of claims 14 and 16 ultimately depends on claim 12. Therefore, and in view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) is hereby respectfully requested.

Patent Application
Docket No. P14984US

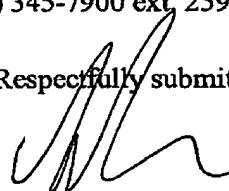
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for favourable action.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the present amendment or present patent application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (514) 345-7900 ext. 2596.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec. 22nd 2005


Alex Nicolaescu

Reg. No. 47,253